

Message Text

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60

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /110 W

----- 093338

R 081821Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4733

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, EC

SUBJ: QUITO PRESS PLAY ON VISIT BY US LOS DELEGATION

1. QUITO'S EL TIEMPO, ON MARCH 8, 1975, DEVOTED ITS LEAD HEADLINE ON PAGE 1 TO A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON (GEORGE GEDDA, AP BY-LINE) ON THE VISIT TO QUITO LAST WEEK BY A US DELEGATION CONSISTING OF JOHN NORTON MOORE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS CLINGAN. THE ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE NOTED THAT "A HIGH LEVEL US DELEGATION PAID A SECRET VISIT TO ECUADOR LAST WEEK TO SEE WHETHER THERE WAS A BASIS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE FISHING DISPUTE." IT IDENTIFIED THE DELEGATION AS INCLUDING "THE SECOND HIGHEST OFFICIAL IN THE US DELEGATION TO THE UN LOS CONFERENCE." THE ARTICLE SAID "PRESUMABLY MOORE TOLD THE ECUADOREANS THAT THEIR ACTIONS IN THE FISHING DISPUTE COULD PROVOKE THE US CONGRESS INTO ADOPTING MEASURES AGAINST ECUADOR" AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN EXPRESSIONS IN CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSAL

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TO PROHIBIT THE EXPORT OF ECUADOREAN FISH PRODUCTS

TO THE US." THE DECISION TO CONDUCT TALKS REFLECTS AMERICAN CONCERN OVER A STEP-UP IN THE TUNA WAR WITH ECUADOR. IT NOTED THAT THE SITUATION HAD "BECOME MORE CRITICAL IN THE LAST TWO DAYS WITH THE ARREST OF 18 CREW MEMBERS FROM A SEIZED AMERICAN BOAT WHO HAD ENGAGED IN A SCUFFLE WITH ECUADOREAN MARINES POSTED ON BOARD THE CAPTURED SHIP."

2. GEDDA'S STORY WAS ALSO PRINTED IN GUAYAQUIL'S EL TELEGRAFO AND EL EXPRESO, IN THE LATTER UNDER A BANNER HEADLINE "SECRET US MISSION WAS IN ECUADOR".

3. AS ALL MAJOR ECUADOREAN PAPERS CARRIED NEWS ARTICLES ON THE "NEPTUNE" DUST-UP, WE BELIEVE IT SIGNIFICANT THAT AT A TIME WHEN PRESUMABLY GREATER NEWS VALUE COULD HAVE BEEN OBTAINED BY HEADLINING THE NEPTUNE PROBLEM, EL TIEMPO NONETHELESS CHOSE TO GIVE ITS LEAD STORY OVER TO THE REPORT OF MOORE'S/CLINGAN'S VISIT UNDER THE HEADLINE OF "US SEARCHES IN QUITO FOR A SOLUTION TO THE FISHING PROBLEM".
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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